

TEN REASONS WHY CONGRESS MUST PASS A TAX CUT

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have an apology to make this morning. I need to apologize because I at the moment can only think of 10 good reasons why Congress must absolutely pass a tax cut.

No. 1, I promised my constituents that I would; No. 2, I am not satisfied with the current economic growth rate; No. 3, cutting taxes will take power away from Washington and put more power into the hands of workers; No. 4, fundamentally I believe that people know better how to spend their own money than do politicians in Washington; No. 5, the current tax burden is 39 percent of income for an average family, and it is way too high; No. 6, I do not think it is fair that workers should have to hand over almost one-third or more of their income to the Government that wastes it on failed social programs; No. 7, higher take-home pay means workers will not have to work as much overtime, which means that workers will have more free time; No. 8, more workers will be able to take a vacation this year; and No. 9, more Americans will be able to start paying off those credit card debts; and No. 10, it is the right thing to do.

OUR VETS DESERVE THE TRUTH

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, thousands of gulf war vets have complained about nerve gas problems to no avail, and after all this the CIA now admits they had warnings as early as 1984 that Iraq had stored nerve gas in their ammunition depots that were later blown up by American troops. Unbelievable. The CIA now says they did not tell the Pentagon and it was a mistake.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe the CIA, and when thousands of gulf war vets are treated like whining hypochondriacs something is very wrong. I say these vets deserve the truth and the help of Congress.

Furthermore, I say to my colleagues, if we want to balance the budget, we could save \$30 billion in our intelligence budget by hiring Barney Fife, who will do a much better job and be a hell of a lot more honest.

THE POWER TO TAX IS NOT THE POWER TO DESTROY

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the most distinguished jurist in American history, Oliver Wendell Holmes, understood perfectly the dangers of an oppressive tax system. In a famous 1928

case Justice Holmes wrote, and I quote, "The power to tax is not the power to destroy while this Court sits."

Mr. Speaker, how many new businesses fail because the tax man seizes too much of what little profit that business makes. How many new businesses would have succeeded if they had not been burdened by tax bills they could not afford? How many businesses decided not to expand because taxes could eat away at the profits? How many businesses decided to locate overseas to escape a tax code that punishes job creation?

Justice Holmes understood even back in 1928 that when the tax burden becomes oppressive enterprises are destroyed and jobs are lost. Sixty-nine years later it is time to learn the lesson; it is time to cut taxes on businesses and let job creation flourish.

LET US PASS THE FAIR PAY ACT

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fair Pay Act. It is shameful that such a law is necessary, but it is. While my Republican colleagues have spent the first hundred days of this Congress on extended vacation let me assure my colleagues that the women of this Nation have been out there working hard for a lot less money.

Mr. Speaker, how it is possible that women have to work until April 11 to make what men earned the year before for the same work. How do we allow employers to continue to discriminate against women by paying them 72 cents for every dollar they pay their male employees.

The Fair Pay Act requires employers to pay equal wages for equal work. This bill would also prohibit wage discrimination based on race and national origin.

In 1992, Hispanic women earned half as much as white men for compatible work, half as much. This is a disgrace. It is time to send a message that we will no longer tolerate this. Let us pass the Fair Pay Act.

THE GREATEST GIFT THIS CONGRESS CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, about 30 years ago a distinguished Member of the other body wrote a book entitled "The Arrogance of Power," and since becoming a Member of Congress this year that title has haunted me, because nowhere has that arrogance been shown greater than in the oppressive tax system that the Congress of the United States has allowed to be developed over the last 30 or 40 years. We now have a tax system that rewards political friends at the expense of America's families.

Somebody asked me yesterday at a press conference what does it mean for America if we truly reform the Tax Code, and what it means is that every man, woman, and child in this country will no longer see an arrogance where Washington thinks they know better and they have more compassion and spending the money that is being earned by America's families.

We are going to abolish that arrogance in this Congress. We are going to reform taxes, we are going to give America back to the Americans, and we are going to restore the future of this financial security for our children. That is the greatest gift this Congress can give our children.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO CUT HEALTH CARE TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT LEAST

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago this country made a pact with senior citizens: Work hard all your life and you will be assured of health care coverage when you need it most.

Today the Medicare Program is one of our Nation's great success stories.

Yesterday my Republican colleague the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] stated that billions of dollars in additional cuts were needed in the Medicare Program. Meanwhile, Speaker GINGRICH announced a new Republican effort to eliminate all taxes on capital gains. These are the tax cuts, my colleagues, that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans versus 37 million seniors who have Medicare.

Looks like my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are up to their old tricks, slashing Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

Democrats in this Congress pledge today to continue to stand up for our Nation's seniors. We are going to fight these Republican efforts to cut the health care of those who need it the most to pay for tax breaks for those who need it least. They are afraid to put their budget on paper; that is why they will not produce a budget. They do not want it there.

Read between the lines. It is the same old story: Medicare cuts to pay for tax cuts.

SCARING SENIOR CITIZENS IN ORDER TO GET REELECTED

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, there they go again. There they go again.

Now the Washington Post called what they are taking under here, called it medagogy. Ted Koppel in "Nightline" talked about how the Democrats were scaring senior citizens